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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,276	11/25/2003	Akira Okitsu	1509.1038	4781
21171	7590	07/14/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				GILMAN, ALEXANDER
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
				2833

DATE MAILED: 07/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/720,276	OKITSU, AKIRA
Examiner	Art Unit	
Alexander D Gilman	2833	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11/25/2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 25 November 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/25/2003.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1, 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Brindle et al.

With regard to claims 1, 2, Brindle et al (US 6,574,114) disclose a socket (col. 1, lines 6-10, col. 2, lines 29-31) for an electrical part which is mounted to a circuit board and in which an electrical part is mounted so as to be electrically connected to the circuit board, said socket comprising:

a contact elastomeric sheet (26) disposed on the circuit board (32) ; and
a land sheet (14) disposed between the contact sheet and the electrical part (30).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brindle et al in view of Shih et al.

Brindle et al disclose all of the limitations except for said conductive portion comprising a number of metal wires.

Shih et al (US 5,810,607) disclose a conductive portion comprising a number of metal wires (17, 18), which are arranged so that a plurality of said number of metal wires.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the conductive portion comprising a number of metal wires, as taught by Shih et al , to connect ends of contact sheet with enhanced durability (Shih, title).

Claims 5,6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brindle et al in view of Okuno.

Brindle et al disclose all of the limitations except for explicitly showing that electrodes of the flexible film being printed respectively to be electrically conductive to each other.

Okuno (US 6,217,343) discloses (Fig.2, 3) electrodes (4a, 4b) of the flexible film being printed (col. 3, lines 42-47) respectively to be electrically conductive to each other.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the electrodes of the flexible film being printed , as taught by Okuno, to provide dependable connect through the flexible sheet.

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brindle et al in view of Ikeya et al.

Brindle et al disclose all of the limitations, as applied to claim 1 above, except for explicitly showing that the plate member comprising upper and lower plates between which end portions of said contact sheet and land sheet are clamped and held.

Ikeya et al (US 5,816,828) disclose the plate member comprising upper (22) and lower (37) plates between which end portions of said contact sheet is clamped and held.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the electrodes of the flexible film being printed , as taught by Ikeya et al, to dependably fix the contact sheet and flexible sheet in the socket.

Art Unit: 2833

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander D Gilman whose telephone number is 571 272-2004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on 571 272-2800 ext. 33. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

07/09/2004



ALEXANDER GILMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER